

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 8.30.26



The Riches of Grace

Part 3: Standing in God's Favor

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Encourage group members to open their Bibles to Romans 5:1-2. Read the passage aloud together before diving into discussion. Remind the group that the "we" in this passage refers to believers — those who have placed personal faith and trust in Christ alone.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sin separated us from God, who is the one thing we need most in life. That separation was not the end of the story.
 - Believers do not merely receive grace at salvation — they stand in grace permanently. This is not a future hope but a present reality.
 - Access to this standing comes through Christ alone, received by faith alone. Nothing needs to be added to what Jesus has already finished.
 - Because our standing rests on Christ's performance and not our own, it is unshakable. No failure, accusation, or circumstance can remove us from it.
 - The grace in which we stand should visibly change how we obey, how we respond to failure, how we face life, and how we treat others.
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ICEBREAKER

Think of a time in your life when you felt like you had to earn someone's approval or acceptance — a parent, a coach, an employer, or someone else. What did that feel like? Did you ever fully feel like you had earned it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1 — Why Do We Need This Standing?

1. The sermon described sin as creating a separation between us and God, and said that there is nothing we need more in life than God. Do you genuinely believe that? What in your daily life competes with that belief?
2. The image of Adam and Eve being expelled from the garden, and the image of the veil in the temple, both illustrate how seriously God treats the separation caused by sin. Why do you think we tend to minimize sin in our own lives even when we understand these pictures?

3. The sermon pointed out that before Christ, believers were standing under wrath, under condemnation, outside the family of God, and far from God. How does reflecting on where you were before Christ change the way you think about where you are now?

Section 2 — How Do We Get This Standing?

4. The word "access" in Romans 5:2 carried the idea of being personally escorted into the presence of someone important by someone who had the right to bring you there. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus did not just point you toward God but brought you there himself?
5. The sermon made a strong statement — that trusting in our own moral performance to maintain our standing with God is, in a sense, saying that Jesus is not enough. How does that land with you? Is that a hard thing to hear? Why or why not?
6. The sermon drew a distinction between knowing facts about Jesus and personally trusting him. In your own words, how would you describe that difference to someone who has never heard it explained?

Section 3 — What Difference Should This Make?

7. The sermon described four areas where standing in God's favor should change us: how we obey, how we respond to failure, how we face life, and how we treat others. Which of these four areas is the most challenging for you personally right now, and why?
 8. When you fail morally or spiritually, what is your first instinct — to run from God or to run to God? What does your honest answer reveal about how well you have internalized the grace you have been given?
 9. The sermon challenged the group: if you find yourself being critical and condemning toward others, the answer is not to grit your teeth and try harder, but to go back and spend time meditating on God's grace. Have you found that to be true in your own experience? What happens to your attitude toward others when you genuinely reflect on how much grace you have received?
 10. The sermon closed with the question: who sits on the throne of your heart? How would the people closest to you answer that question about you based on what they observe in your daily life?
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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to practice individually or as a group before your next meeting.

For Personal Reflection Read Romans 5:1-2 every morning this week before you begin your day. Before you get out of bed, remind yourself out loud: "I am standing in God's favor today. My position is secure because of Jesus, not because of my performance."

For Those Who Struggle with Failure Write down Hebrews 4:16 and keep it somewhere visible. The next time you fail, resist the instinct to hide or to wait until you feel worthy enough to approach God. Go to him immediately and practice coming boldly to the throne of grace.

For Those Who Tend Toward Performance-Based Faith Take an honest inventory this week. After each day, ask yourself: did I obey God today out of gratitude for the standing I already have, or was I trying to earn or maintain something? Journal what you notice.

For Relationships Identify one person in your life toward whom you have been critical, impatient, or unforgiving. Spend time this week meditating on a passage about God's grace toward you — Romans 5, Ephesians 2, or Romans 8 — and then intentionally extend grace to that person in a specific and practical way.

For the Group Together Discuss as a group: what would it look like for your community of believers to be, as the sermon described, "a cold, refreshing drink of water to a world that is thirsty"? Identify one specific way your group can extend grace to someone outside your church in the coming weeks.

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPTS

Close your time together in prayer. Use these prompts to guide the group.

- Thank God for the specific reality that you are not striving toward his favor but standing in it.
 - Confess any areas where you have been trusting in your own performance rather than in Christ's finished work.
 - Ask God to make his grace so real in your heart that it naturally overflows into the way you treat the people around you.
 - Pray for someone in your life who does not yet know the grace of God and who needs to hear the good news.
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FOR FURTHER STUDY

The following passages were referenced in the sermon and are worth reading and reflecting on this week.

- Isaiah 59:2 — on sin's separation from God
- Romans 1 and Romans 8 — on the condition of those outside of Christ
- Ephesians 2:12-13 and 2:18 — on being far off and brought near by Christ
- 1 Peter 3:18 — on Christ bringing us to God
- Hebrews 10:19-22 and Hebrews 4:16 — on boldly entering God's presence through Christ
- Romans 8:38-39 — on nothing separating us from the love of God
- John 10:28-29 — on the security of the believer in God's hand